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Current Class: [REDACTED]  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 1979BUENOS04230

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
PA-01 SP-02 ICAE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 IO-14  
SR-05 H-01 L-03 INRE-00 /084 W  
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O R 242111Z MAY 79  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0811  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
USUN NEW YORK 0955  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ  
DIA WASHDC

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part (X) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 4230

E.O. 12065 XDS-4 5-24-09 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M  
TAGS SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - MAY 24, 1979

REF: BUENOS AIRES 3993

SUMMARY: THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SIX YOUTHS AFTER  
MEETING AT A FRIENDS HOUSE ON MAY 12 WAS REPORTED TO  
EMBASSY ON MAY 21, AS REPORTED BUENOS AIRES 4082. THE  
MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS  
CONTINUED TO DEEPEN WITH THE ARRIVAL OF A LETTER  
PURPORTEDLY SENT BY HER TO AMBASSADOR CASTRO FROM BRAZIL  
(REPORTED ALSO IN SEPTEL).  
THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A  
COPY OF THE NEW DECREE ON PRISON REGULATIONS AND

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INSTRUCTIONS TO REQUEST CONSULAR VISITS TO PEN DETAINEES  
THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. TWENTY-FIVE PEOPLE WERE

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RELEASED FROM PEN STATUS AND A BRAZILIAN CITIZEN WAS ORDERED DEPORTED TO FRANCE. THE IACHR MAY VISIT ARGENTINA IN LATE JUNE, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS HERE. END SUMMARY.

1. (U) CONTINUING MYSTERY OF MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS --- THE EMBASSY RECEIVED ON MAY 18 A LETTER TO THE AMBASSADOR PURPORTEDLY SENT BY MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS FROM SAO PAULO, BRAZIL. IN THE LETTER, ALSO SENT TO PRESIDENT VIDLEA, ARCHBISHOP ARAMBURU AND THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY, MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS REPUDIATES THE MONTONEROS WHOM SHE CLAIMS USED HER TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOA THROUGH THE COMMISSION OF FAMILIES OF DETAINED AND DISAPPEARED PERSONS AND ABROAD. SHE EXPRESSES FEAR FOR HER LIFE FROM VINDICTIVE MONTONEROS. (CONTENTS REPORTED SEPTTEL.) WE HAVE IT CONFIRMED BY THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY THAT THAT ORGANIZATION TOO RECEIVED A 7- PAGE LETTER FROM MRS. CABEZAS, WHICH THEY ARE TURNING OVER TO HANDWRITING ANALYSTS FOR STUDY. MEANWHILE, INTERIOR MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY TOLD EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET AMBASSADORS AT A RECENT LUNCHEON THAT DESPITE EARLIER INDICATIONS THAT MRS. JARA DE CABEZAS HAD LEFT ARGENTINA AND HAD WRITTEN FRIENDS HERE FROM URUGUAY AND ELSEWHERE, HE WAS NOW FOLLOWING UP OTHER LEADS --INCLUDING A POSSIBILITY SHE WAS TAKEN BY ONE OF THE ARGENTINE MILITARY SERVICES. HE PROMISED TO PURSUE THE CASE ACTIVELY AND INVITED THE ASSEMBLED EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS TO BRING NEW DISAPPEARANCE CASES DIRECTLY TO HIS ATTENTION.

2. (U) 25 PERSONS RELEASED FROM PEN---

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THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCED IN A MAY 19 PRESS THAT 25 PERSONS WERE RELEASED FROM PEN STATUS. AMONG THOSE LISTED WERE THE FOLLOWING CASES IN EMBASSY FILES: ANGELA DOLORES COLELL (NO 196-77-11), INTEREST EXPRESSED BY REP. MCHUGH; JUANA ROSA PERALTA DE PEDROGOSA, AND GLORIA INIGUEZ DE BRIZUELA.

3. (U) BRAZILIAN CITIZEN EXPELLED --- BRAZILIAN CITIZEN FLAVIO KOUNTZII (US INTEREST CASE NOZ12-77-10) WILL SOON BE DEPORTED FROM ARGENTINA TO FRANCE, AFTER HAVING COMPLETED HALF OF HIS SIX YEAR SENTENCE FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. BRAZILIAN

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FOREIGN MINISTER SARAIVA GUERREIRO REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED OFFICIAL APPRECIATION FOR THE "GENEROUS GESTURE" OF PRESIDENT VIDELA, WHO SIGNED THE EXPULSION DECREE SEVERAL DAYS AGO. KOUNTZII WILL DEPART FOR FRANCE AS HE IS NOT PERMITTED TO RETURN TO BRAZIL, WHERE HE FACES A FOUR YEAR SENTENCE FOR ALLEGED TIES

TO THE PROSCRIBED COMMUNIST PARTY. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, KOUNTZII WAS THE ONLY BRAZILIAN CITIZEN DETAINED BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND HIS RELEASE WAS INTENDED AS A GESTURE OF GOODWILL ON THE PART OF GOA. (ACCORDING TO EMBASSY RECORDS, KOUNTZII WAS ARRESTED IN BUENOS AIRES IN MAY, 1975 AND SENTENCED IN MAY, 1978. INTEREST IN THIS CASE HAS BEEN EXPRESSED BY WOLA AND THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE.)

4. (U) IACHR MAY COME IN LATE JUNE ---  
THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE NEW INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WERE ELECTED AT THE OAS SPECIAL SESSION ON MAY 22 AND WILL PROBABLY INITIATE THEIR POSTPONED VISIT TO ARGENTINA BY THE END OF JUNE, ACCORDING TO WIRE AGENCY REPORTS WIDELY PUBLISHED LOCALLY MAY 23.

5. (U) JUDGE REINSTATES FIRED PROFESSOR ---  
[REDACTED]  
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A FEDERAL JUDGE THIS WEEK REVOKED THE DISMISSAL OF LECTURER AND LAWYER HECTOR NEGRI FROM LA PLATA UNIVERSITY TWO YEARS AGO ON CHARGES OF BEING "A POTENTIAL FACTOR OF PERTURBATION." JUDGE HECTOR DE LA SERNA ORDERED NEGRI BE REINSTATED AND PAID BACK WAGES. HE ALSO ADMONISHED LA PLATA UNIVERSITY FOR CLAIMING IMMUNITY FROM COURT REVIEW OF ITS ACTIONS.

6. (U) NEW PRISON REGULATIONS FOR SUBVERSIVE DETAINEES ---  
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT HENCEFORTH, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECREE NO 780-79, CONSULAR VISITS TO BOTH ARGENTINE AND FOREIGN NATIONALS

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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
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MUST BE ARRANGED THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.  
ACCOMPANYING THE MINISTRY'S NOTE WAS A COPY OF DECREE  
780 OUTLINING NEW PRISON REGULATIONS FOR PERSONS  
DETAINED AND SENTENCED FOR SUBVERSIVE CRIMES. THE  
LENGTHY DECREE COVERS: RECREATION; MEDICAL AND  
NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS; FAMILY, LEGAL AND CONSULAR  
VISITS; CORRESPONDENCE; EDUCATIONSL AND WORK  
OPPORTUNITIES; SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE;  
AMONG THE DECREE'S PROVISIONS:  
--FOREIGN NATIONAL DETAINEES MAY RECEIVE VISITS OF  
THEIR COUNTRY'S CONSULS AND ARGENTINE NATIONALS MAY  
RECIEVE CONSULAR VISITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW NO  
21.650 (REGULATING THE RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM)  
THROUGH APPLICATION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY;  
--DETAINEES IN GOOD STANDING MAY RECEIVE VISITS OF FAMILY

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AND LEGAL COUSEL; MAINTAIN CORRESPONDENCE; REQUEST  
AND RECEIVE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, WRITING MATERIALS,  
AND NEWSPAPERS; HAVE UP TO FIVE BOOKS AND TWO  
MAGAZINES IN THE CELL AT ONE TIME; USE THE PRISON  
LIBRARY AND PRISON COMMISSARY, RECEIVE RELIGIOUS

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MATERIALS AND TWICE MONTHLY VISITS FROM THE PRISON CATHOLIC CHAPLIN OR REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR OWN FAITH;

--DETAINEES WILL HAVE THREE HOURS OF RECREATION DAILY, INCLUDING SPORTS AND GYMNASTICS;

--BE PROVIDED ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE AND THREE MEALS PLUS AFTERNOON TEA EACH DAY;

--DETAINEES MAY NOT ENGAGE IN SINGING, WHISTLING, SCREAMING, FURTIVE CONVERSATIONS OR PROSCRIBED GAMES AND ACTIVITIES AT UNAUTHORIZED TIMES;

--DETAINEES MAY BRING INDIVIDUAL, BUT NOT GROUP, PETITIONS TO THE ATTENTION OF PRISON AUTHORITIES;

--PRISONERS MAY WORK IF THEY DESIRE--JOBS WILL BE REMUNERATED WITH 80 PERCENT OF THE PAY ALLOTTED TO

THE PRISONER FOR PERSONAL ITEMS AND 20 PERCENT

MAINTAINED IN A FUND DISBURSED UPON HIS RELEASE;

BAATRANSGRESSORS WILL BE SUBJECT TO PUNISHMENT OF LOSS OF PRIVILEGES OR SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR UP TO

30 DAYS; PERSONS IN SOLITARY WILL RECEIVE A DAILY

MEDICAL VISIT AND THE PUNISHMENT WILL BE SUSPENDED IF

REQUIRED BY THE PERSONS PHYSICAL OR MENTAL STATE;

--PRISONERS MAY KEEP SPECIFIC ITEMS WITH THEM, IN-

CLUDING TOILETRIES, CLOTHING, CRACKERS AND JAMS,

EATING UTENSILS, AND WRITING MATERIALS.

7. (U) MORE ON PRISON CONDITIONS ---

THE BUENOS AIRES GUILD OF RELEASED PRISONERS REPORTEDLY

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HAS CONCLUDED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL PENITENCIARY SERVICE TO INSTALL WORKSHOPS IN UNIT 23 OF VILLA DEVOTO PRISON. THE AGREEMENT WILL PERMIT INMATES TO OBTAIN BOOKS AND MATERIALS TO LEARN NEW

TRADES WHILE IN PRISON.

8. [REDACTED] COMPLAINTS REGARDING HIGH SCHOOL "GUIDANCE" TEXTBOOK ---

A JEWISH SOURCE OFTEN IN TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY HAS TOLD US OF CONSTERNATION IN JEWISH AND OTHER CIRCLES HERE OVER CONTENTS OF A BOOK, "MORAL Y CIVICA," PUBLISHED IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR AND INTENDED FOR THE "MORAL GUIDANCE" OF YOUNG PEOPLE BEGINNING THEIR HIGH SCHOOL. THE BOOK IS OF POWERFUL, PRE-VATICAN II ORTHODOX CATHOLIC BENT AND MAKES CLAIMS AND STATEMENTS

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PREEJUDICIAL TO THE JEWISH AND OTHER FAITHS. (IT ALSO HAS A SECTION ON THE MONROE DOCTRINE IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS SHARPLY CRITICIZED FOR PROFESSING TO PROTECT THE CONTINENT FROM FURTHER COLONIALISM WHILE UNFAIRLY FURTHERING ITS OWN BUSINESS AND POLITICAL INTERESTS.) THE PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT THE "DAIA" --AN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS NOT KNOWN FOR HARD POSITIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT--HAS ALSO PROTESTED. LA NACION EDITORIALIZED AGAINST THE BOOK, AND SEVERAL CONTACTS HAVE COMMENTED WITH DISMAY THAT--ASIDE FROM THE BOOK'S CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC OUTLOOK--ARGENTINE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN BUFFETED BY SO MANY BOOKS OVER THE YEARS INSTRUCTING IN THE ORTHODOXY OF THE MOMENT (THERE WERE SIMILAR PERONIST TRACTS, FOR EXAMPLE) THAT THE WHOLE THING HAS GROWN RIDICULOUS IF NOT ACTUALLY DANGEROUS. OUR JEWISH SOURCE EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL DISMAY ABOUT THE BOOK O FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR (N.B. THE FOREIGN

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MINISTRY ALSO HAS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE RELIGIOUS FIELD AS THEY CONCERN RELATIONS WITH NON-CATHOLIC SECTS) AND WAS ASKED IN TURN FOR A FULL CRITIQUE.

9. [REDACTED]XDS-4) THE DAILY NEWSPAPER LA PRENSA, MUCH REDUCED IN CIRCULATION AFTER MANY YEARS OF BATTLING IN FAVOR OF DEMOCRATIC IDEAS AGAINST PERONIST AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIONS, IS AGAIN BECOMING A MAJOR FORCE IN ARGENTINE JOURNALISM AS AN ADVOCATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ITS FORCEFUL EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARY ON THIS THEME HAVE HAD INCREASING IMPACT HERE. RECENTLY PRESIDENT VIDELA CALLED IN MANFRED SCHONFELD, THE PAPER'S LEADING INTERNATIONAL COLUMNIST, TO DISCUSS A SCHONFELD COLUMN CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT TO TELL THE RELATIVES OF THOSE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR LOVED ONES. LA PRENSA PUBLISHER MAXIMO GAINZA TOLD THE IO MAY 23 THAT VIDELA, IN A THREE-HOUR CONVERSATION, AGREED WITH SCHONFELD AND LAMENTED HIS LACK OF POWER TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION. GAINZA SAID HE THOUGHT THAT VIDELA'S FRUSTRATION MIGHT LEAD HIM TO RESIGN. GAINZA ADDED THAT HIS NEWSPAPER, GENERALLY PRO GOA, WOULD SOON PUBLISH A LIST OF 5,485 DISAPPEARED PERSONS WHOSE NAMES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS.

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